

into three pieces and the order to abandon ship was given. Despite three broken vertebrae, a broken ankle, and a large gash in his head, Mr. Underwood treaded water through the night and into the next day before being rescued by a Navy destroyer.

Madam Speaker, it is because of heroes like Ernal Underwood that we enjoy the freedom we have today. Men who asked nothing from their country, but gave everything. We owe them more than words, medals, or honors. What we as a Nation can do to say thank you to these heroes is leave our country and our world better than we found it. I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring Ernal Underwood and thousands of veterans like him whose sacrifice left a world freer, stronger, and more prosperous.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRANDI HINDS

#### HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young combat veteran whose efforts in an Afghan hospital embody the characteristics of a true humanitarian.

From May 5, 2007 to September 11, 2007, Brandi Hinds served as an Emergency Medical Technician with the 455th M.D.O.S. at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. While providing medical care in the local Afghan hospitals, Brandi noticed the day to day struggles that the Afghan people face, particularly the children. Brandi made it her mission to restore some normalcy to their lives in the midst of the chaos. Instead of writing home and asking for items that she needed, Brandi selflessly requested that friends and family members send items for the young children at the hospital. Shortly thereafter, packages began to arrive from home filled with toys and other small novelty and recreation items. Brandi's efforts brought joy to the many children she encountered. After her departure, Air Force Chaplain CPT Terri Gast continues to distribute the gifts to the Afghan children. What began as the desire of one individual to make a small difference has grown into a program fittingly named "Brandi's Kids."

Brandi's service and sacrifice has inspired the many whose lives she has touched. Today, Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to recognize Brandi's tireless dedication to the children of Afghanistan and thank her for her service to our great Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON ANDERSON

#### HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today, Wednesday, November 7, 2007, astronaut Clayton Anderson will touch down at Kennedy Space Center aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. Clayton, a native of Ashland, NE, returns home after spending 5 months in space aboard the International Space Station.

I had the distinct honor of having a brief telephone conversation with Clay during his

time aboard the International Space Station. It was truly an experience I will remember for the rest of my life.

Born in Omaha, Clayton received his bachelor of science degree in physics from Hastings College, Nebraska in 1981 and a master of science degree in aerospace engineering from Iowa State University in 1983. He joined the Johnson Space Center in 1983 and was selected as a mission specialist by NASA in June 1998. He launched to the Space Station on June 8, 2007 aboard Space Shuttle *Atlantis* with the crew of STS-117 and was assigned as Expedition 15 flight engineer.

Nebraskans from Omaha to Scottsbluff are proud of Clayton and all he has accomplished. He is an inspiration to all who wish to pursue their own goals—whether of one day traveling to and exploring space, teaching the next generation of students, or simply being the best person they can be.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, today the House will vote on a conference report which includes the 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill and the 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill. I rise in support of this legislation because I believe that this legislation will fund programs families in the 15th District need and rely on—quality education, strong health care, jobs that are safe for its workers and secure retirement plans.

I am disappointed that the President has threatened to veto this legislation. I find it extremely irresponsible that he finds it acceptable to fund another \$200 billion for the war in Iraq, but has issue with an increase of \$9.8 billion for education, health and workforce programs and an increase of \$4 billion for veterans' health care.

Specifically this legislation will:

Provide \$37.2 billion to VA hospitals and clinics, and traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress disorder research, over \$2.6 billion more than the President requested.

Invest \$124.2 million into VA claims processors to address the backlog of 400,000 benefit claims.

Increase education funding to \$60.7 billion, funding that will be dedicated to Title I grants to help low-income children, teacher quality and after school programs, IDEA grants and Pell grants.

Dedicate \$12 billion to dislocated worker training, Job Corps, and worker protection efforts at the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health.

Through this legislation we will fund all these programs, while only spending enough money equal to the cost of 2 months in Iraq. Let me be clear that it is not the goal of this

Congress to withhold funding for our troops; however, it is important that Congress give this administration the message that our domestic programs should not be forgotten at the expense of a poorly handled and mismanaged war in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, the annual appropriations process is never easy, but this Congress we have an opportunity to pass a good piece of legislation that is also fiscally responsible. As Members of Congress, it is our duty to our constituents to fund programs that will improve their quality of life, which is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House chamber for rollcall vote 1044. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### HONORING GEVORK ARZOUMANIAN A SURVIVOR OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gevork Arzoumanian, a resident of Glendale, California and a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. Mr. Arzoumanian was born in 1907 in the village of Sulduz, modern day Naghadeh, northwest Iran, bordering the Republic of Turkey.

The children's cries and the groans of the elderly still haunt Gevork today, 92 years after the atrocities. His lips quiver and his hands shake when he retells those bitter memories to his grandchildren.

Once the Ottoman forces had begun their massacres and deportation of the area's Christian Armenians and Assyrians, Gevork's family marched toward the village of Rezaie (Orumieh province) leaving behind their home and cotton farm. Along the way, Gevork witnessed the murders of his father (Arzouman), mother (Arpik), sisters (Asdghik and Satenik) and brother (Ashod). As a young boy, Gevork also witnessed the pillage of people's houses, the stealing of young girls and the horrible game of Ottoman Turkish soldiers throwing infants in the air and catching them with their swords. Those who survived the brutality ended up in the city of Hamadan, Iran and were divided into two groups; one would be headed to Beirut and the other to Tehran. Gevork was in the latter. He was taken to the St. George Church, temporarily cared for by an Armenian couple, who later sent him to the city of Babol by the Caspian Sea, where he was cared for by Mr. Garegin and Verjin Harotoonian. He later became a truck driver.

Mr. Arzoumanian has lived through an incredibly difficult period in history. Nevertheless, he worked hard and persevered. In 1940, Gevork married Laura and had two children, a